

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 12992 071321Z

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 INR-07 CIAE-00

L-03 /046 W

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R 071112Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5847

DOD WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSMACTHAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 12992

CONCPAC ALSO FOR POLAR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, SEATO, PFOR, TH, US

SUBJECT: STATUS OF U.S. CONTINGENT, SEATO MEDICAL LAB

REF: A) STATE 109526 B) STATE 100395

1. THE DEPARTMENT IS CORRECTLY INFORMED THAT COMMANDER SEATO MED LAB, COLONEL BEACH, HAS BEEN ADVISED BY HIS THAI OPPOSITE NUMBER, MAJOR GENERAL THUTCHAI, THAT THE RTG'S MARCH 20 DECISION DID NOT APPLY TO THE SEATO MED LAB. GENERAL THUTCHAI PROVIDED COL. BEACH WITH A COPY OF A MEMORANDUM FROM MFA UNDER SECRETARY ANAN PANYARACHUN TO CHIEF OF STAFF, ROYAL THAI ARMY, SETTING FORTH THIS CLARIFICATION. ACCORDING TO THE ANAN MEMORANDUM, WHOSE AUTHENTICITY WE HAVE NO REASON TO QUESTION, THE EXEMPTION OF THE SEATO MED LAB FROM THE MARCH 20 ORDER WAS BASED UPON THE FACT THAT SEATO IS A PROJECT UNDER THE SOUTHEAST ASIA TREATY ORGANIZATION IN WHICH OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES MAY PARTICIPATE.

2. THE EMBASSY HAS TAKEN THE POSITION THAT SINCE IT WAS THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT COMMUNICATED THE MARCH 20 DECISION, ANY MODIFICATIONS OF THAT DECISION SHOULD ALSO BE MADE KNOWN THROUGH THE MFA-EMBASSY CHANNEL. THIS WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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MADE KNOWN ON MAY 4 BY THE POLITICAL-MILITARY COUNSELOR TO

WORAPHUT CHAIYANAM, CHIEF, AMERICA DIVISION, POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, MFA. WORAPHUT AGREED, AND SAID THAT MFA WAS IN THE PROCESS OF PROPARING A NOTE TO THE EMBASSY STATING THAT THE MARCH 20 DECISION WAS NOT APPLICABLE TO THE SEATO MEDICAL LAB.

3. FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, SEATO MED LAB HAS BEEN INCLUDED AMONG THE ACTIVITIES TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM THAILAND. WE RECOMMEND THAT WHEN THE NOTE FROM MFA IS RECEIVED, AND ASSUMING IT IS ALONG LINES DESCRIBED ABOVE, RETROGRADE OF THE SEATO MED LAB BE CANCELLED AND IT BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE OPERATION IN ITS PRESENT STATUS. PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE DOCUMENTED AND TREATED AS DAO PERSONNEL NOT ON THE DIPLOMATIC LIST, WHICH EQUATES TO ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL EMBASSY STAFF AS DEFINED IN THE VIENNA CONVENTION.

4. WHEN THE PHASEOUT OF SEATO NEARS COMPLETION WE WILL HAVE THE OPTION OF RAISING OR NOT RAISING THE QUESTION OF THE BASIS FOR THE PRESENCE OF THE SEATO MED LAB THEREAFTER. AT THIS POINT WE ARE INCLINED TO DOUBT THAT IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO RAISE THIS QUESTION, UNLESS WE WISH TO DO SO FOR REASONS NOT RELATED TO THE MEDICAL LAB ITSELF.

5. WE BELIEVE THE COURSE OF ACTION DESCRIZED IN THIS TELEGRAM IS CONSISTENT WITH PARA 5, REF B EVEN THOUGH THE THAI HAVE NOT FORMALLY REQUESTED THAT THE MEDICAL LABORATORY REMAIN. WE WILL ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT WHEN THE MFA NOTE IS RECEIVED AND REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS.
WHITEHOUSE

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